

Rule-Making for Administrative Code ATCP 50:

Understanding the Silurian Bedrock Performance Standard (NR 151.075) and the Verification of Depth to Bedrock Technical Standard (DATCP 01)

Stakeholders of the [current rule-making process](#) for Administrative Code ATCP 50 ask questions to better understand the relationship among the Silurian Bedrock Performance Standard (NR 151.075), Administrative Code ATCP 50, and the Verification of Depth to Bedrock Technical Standard (DATCP 01). The information below describes the key differences and outlines their relationship.

The Silurian bedrock performance standard ([NR 151.075](#))

- Sets standards for manure spreading to protect groundwater.
- Applies in certain parts of 16 counties in eastern Wisconsin with shallow soils (20 feet or less) over Silurian bedrock.
- Adopted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through a public process.
- Cannot be changed at this time.

Chapter ATCP 50 of Wisconsin Administrative Code ([ATCP 50](#))

- Identifies the conservation practices or technical standards that can be used to meet standards adopted by the DNR, including the Silurian bedrock performance standard.
- Adopted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) through a public process.
- Currently open to allow revisions; public input is needed.

The verification of depth to bedrock technical standard ([DATCP 01](#))

- Serves as a tool for landowners and farmers to determine the depth of soil in a field.
- Developed through the collaboration of experts through the Wisconsin Standards Oversight Council process, with consideration of public input.
- Use of the technical standard is not required unless a landowner or farmer chooses to verify depth to bedrock in a location.
- Cannot be changed at this time.

What is the relationship between the above?

The Silurian bedrock performance standard sets standards for manure spreading in parts of the state with a depth to Silurian bedrock of 20 feet or less to protect groundwater from sources of bacterial contamination.

The conservation practices and cost-sharing available to landowners to meet this performance standard will be described in Wis. Admin. Code ATCP 50 following a rule-making process.

The verification of depth to bedrock technical standard outlines a process for landowners and farmers to verify the depth of the soil within their fields. If a landowner or farmer voluntarily chooses to verify depth to bedrock in shallow soil areas identified in the Silurian bedrock performance standard, they must follow the process outlined in the verification of depth to bedrock technical standard.

For more information, visit our webpage:

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ATCP50RuleChanges.aspx.

If you have additional questions, please contact DATCPLANDWATER@wisconsin.gov.